

I would like to thank the Clarence Chamber of Commerce for organizing another successful State of the Town address, held at Orazio's on Thursday, January 19<sup>th</sup>. I would like to also thank those that attended the event, including my fellow elected officials, Town Clerk Nancy Metzger, Councilman DiCostanzo, Councilman Geiger, Councilman Greene and Councilman Shear. This year was a big success for our town, and it would not have been possible without the board, our great town employees and department heads.

2016 planted the seeds for many fantastic town projects, which I am happy to say are currently on budget and on schedule. This summer, the new Public Safety Building will be completed and ready for the State Police, Erie County Sheriff's and the Town of Clarence Courts to move in. In addition to this bringing tremendous improved safety measures for those entering the courthouse, this also helped us keep our law enforcement with New York State and Erie County.

Our bike paths are one of the most heavily used areas of our park system. A bike path extension throughout Spaulding Green is weeks away from being open to the public. This is in addition to the recent completion of the Waterford bike path extension, which allowed Waterford residents to have access to the Peanut Line trail. With the beginning of Northwood's development, there will also soon be a constructed bike trail from Roll Road to Greiner Road.

Additionally, the Town was awarded a grant for sidewalk improvements on Main Street. When completed, our residents will be able to walk to entire length of Main Street on safe sidewalks. This was especially needed in the Harris Hill area, where sidewalks will safely open entire neighborhoods to the businesses on Main Street, such as Dash's and Hayes. The ground breaking is planned for this spring, with work completed by late fall. The Town Board will be reviewing a sidewalk district to help keep the sidewalks free of snow during the winter months.

The Town also received a grant funding for more sewer extensions in The Hollow. Alexander and Elmcroft Court are under design now for new sewers.

Our Comprehensive Plan, now called 2030 is in place thanks to the hard work by Jim Callahan and Jonathan Bleuer. With this comes a vision for Main Street, which was an IDA sponsored study. This study will be used to obtain future grants for the betterment and redevelopment of Main Street.

In 2016, our Department Heads came in under budget. This helped with the 2017 budget, which is under the tax cap. The 2017 budget has kept our rate at around 95 cents a thousand, and we remain at one of the lowest rates in Erie County. Other Towns and Villages rates are in the dollars, if not even higher. The Town of Clarence financial rating of Aa1 is the best in the area.

I have loved my first year as the Town of Clarence Supervisor, and I am looking forward to all the great things to come in 2017 and beyond.